

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD



Libby Asbestos Superfund Site Libby, Montana



Libby Amphibole Research Initiative

EPA and ATSDR are investing \$8M in a series of research projects in Libby, Montana designed to advance the general scientific knowledge of Libby Amphibole (LA) asbestos that occurs naturally in the environment. Many of these epidemiological studies are included in the "Libby Action Plan" and will support the development of the Baseline Risk Assessment for the Superfund site. It is hoped that the results of this Initiative will help understand and manage adverse health effects from Libby Amphibole exposure.

The Initiative is expected to last approximately five years with epidemiological studies and database development work undertaken on the ground in Libby. At other locations, ATSDR and EPA will be working on the creation of computer and/or mathematical modeling to help explain what level of exposure leads to health effects, the completion of a Digital Comparison Study, updating the Tremolite Asbestos Registry, and further investigating worker exposures and health effects in Marysville, Ohio.

This research will provide new information about lower level exposures that can help doctors and others respond to emerging health issues in populations exposed to LA, including children. Knowledge gained from this research will help prevent or mitigate exposure to LA in the future. While completing their work, public health researchers will collaborate with local organizations that best understand the Libby community (CARD, ARDNet, St. John's Hospital, TAG, CAG, etc.).

Representatives from EPA HQ and ATSDR/CDC in Atlanta, will roll out the Initiative in Libby the week of June 9, 2008 under the guidance of the EPA Libby Site Team. Scheduled events include briefings of the Lincoln County Commission, St. Johns Hospital, ARDNet, CARD clinic, and the Libby CAG. A press release and fact sheet will be issued from Washington on Wednesday, June 11th.